

CAMPUS LIFE

No To Drugs



The Hopwood Junior High School community believes that acknowledging its existence is the first step that should be taken to effectively solve the campus' drug problems. **8**

BUSINESS

Save American Jobs



President Bush said that 300,000 jobs could be saved if Congress quickly reaches compromise on legislation to bolster the sagging economy. Negotiations between Republicans and Democrats resumed. **10**

NATION

They Heard You

American forces heard Osama bin Laden giving orders over short-range radio in the Tora Bora area of eastern Afghanistan during all-out assaults on the rugged mountains and caves where he is believed hiding. **13**

ASIA

Raid Guerrilla Group

Philippine military commanders said Saturday that a raid on a group of Muslim guerrillas is imminent, and they promised to rescue an American couple and a Filipino nurse held hostage. **16**



LIFE & STYLE

Winona Ryder Arrested

Winona Ryder was arrested for allegedly shoplifting at a Saks Fifth Avenue boutique. Store security guards detained the Oscar-nominated actress after discovering her trying to steal "numerous items of clothing." **19**



EXCHANGE RATES		
	YESTERDAY	PREVIOUS
YEN	127.3750	125.9950
PESO	52.0500	51.3250
HK \$	7.7997	7.7999
BAHT	43.8050	43.7300
RUPEE	47.8550	47.8900
WON	1280.5000	1305.5000

TODAY'S WEATHER

Mostly cloudy with and breezy with isolated showers. Lows in the mid 70s. Highs in the mid 80s.

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Plans to detain Taliban on Tinian thrill businessmen

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
Staff Reporter

TINIAN – Local businessmen here chorused in saying that making Tinian a holding area for arrested Taliban warriors will help revive the island's economy through increased spending activities that will come akin to the arrival of military personnel.

The plan would also give Tinian and the rest of the Northern Marianas international exposure from some of the world's largest media entities that are expected to send in reporters on the island for coverage.

Tinian businessmen complained that revenues reached rock bottom since after the September 11 terror attacks on the US, as they project better sales figures if plans to detain Afghan warriors

on the island pushed through.

In the meantime, they cut manpower and working hours to remain afloat amid the hard economic times.

"Two thirds of the Tinian land belong to the military. They can do whatever they want. There is no need to worry, security will surely be discussed extensively. The military is a very disciplined agency and we don't foresee any problem with that," according to a

businessman who asked that his identity be withheld.

He said that, once the federal government and the Northern Marianas agreed on aspects relating on the possible use of Tinian as holding area for the Taliban and al-Qaida members, local grocers and businesses will have the chance to generate additional income.

"Tinian is not known anywhere but

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MHS shuts down water system due to coliform

By JOHN RAVELO
Staff Reporter

School authorities had to shut down the water distribution system at the Marianas High School since Friday after it was found to be contaminated with bacteria that exceeded allowable levels.

But David Schmidt, environmental scientist from the Division of Environmental Quality, said the school provided five-gallon water jugs in all its restrooms so that hundreds of students would have water to use when needed.

Schmidt said the school's water tanks were drained last Saturday. Ten of the tanks were cleaned through a process called chlorination, while six others were scheduled for disinfection during the Christmas vacation after this week.

He said the DEQ will conduct chlorine and contaminant tests on the school's drinking water system today,

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Boy gets wish to take part in fire drill

By JAYVEE VALLEJERA
Staff Reporter

Shy and soft-spoken, Saipan's youngest and first-ever honorary firefighter, Patrick S., took part in a fire-and-rescue drill held at the Governor's Office Friday morning, with brawny firemen leading the frail-looking boy through the ropes of the demonstration.

Five-year-old Patrick, who has a hypoplastic right ventricle (heart) problem, was also accompanied by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, who took a break from his customary office routine to play host to the young boy.

When later asked if he enjoyed himself, Patrick shyly nodded but he refused to answer further questions by reporters.

While the reporters were talking to Tenorio, however, Patrick walked apart from the group and stood by this reporter, who asked him if was feeling alright. The boy softly said "Yes." When asked how old he is, he answered, "Five years old"—still in that same soft and fragile voice.

Employees at the Governor's Office took the drill as a welcome break from work and watched as the firemen and rescue teams went through their routine.

With the fire alarms blaring in the background, an "injured" employee was

See Boy on Page 4



A car accident "victim" is slowly eased out of the vehicle by rescue and fire personnel of the Department of Public Safety during a drill conducted Friday morning at the parking lot of the Governor's Office. At extreme right is Patrick S., the CNMI's youngest and first honorary fireman.

'Never leave your kids home alone'

By MARIAN A. MARAYA
Staff Reporter

A 22-year-old woman, red-handedly caught playing poker while her kids were left at home without adult supervision, was held under police custody last Wednesday for alleged child neglect.

Special federal agent Anthony Macaranas and Attorney General Investigator Urbano Babauta discovered the unattended kids — a four-

See Never on Page 4



MHS student takes runway by storm

By EDITH G. ALEJANDRO
Staff Reporter

Marianas High School student Wilma Jean C. Fleming engaged the catwalk to bag the grand prize in the first 2001 Marianas Wedding Model Contest and Festival held Saturday at the Pacific Islands Club.

Fleming and nine other candidates, including her twin sister Velma C. Fleming, were named CNMI's top aspiring models after sashaying wedding gowns, which were designed by Jacqueline Jung of Luxe Wedding, and Han Bok, which were provided by designer Seon Hee Bae.

Twenty-six candidates vied for the top 10 top prizes and six special awards given away in the first wedding model contest and festival collaboratively held by the Marianas Visitors Authority, the Marasia Corporation, Duty Free Shop, and the PIC.

Winners in the 2001 Marianas Wedding Model Contest and Festival include Wilma Jean Fleming, grand prize; Gye Jung Kim, second place; Velma Fleming, third place; Kenyelyn Arriola, fourth place; Karen D. Guerrero, fifth place; Mini C. Ta, sixth place; Diann Tudela, seventh place; Erralyn Reiman, eighth place; Terra Matsumoto, ninth place; and Mathilda Sanchez, tenth place.

The DFS Galleria special award went to Vynicia M. Seman; Madelaine B. Lopez was named Miss Photogenic; Velma C. Fleming is Miss Talent; Ms.



Aspiring models strut the catwalk with the traditional Korean Han Bok during Saturday's night 2001 Saipan Wedding Model Contest and Festival at the Pacific Islands Club. (Inset:) Marianas High School student Wilma Jean C. Fleming donned in a Han Bok bagged the grand prize in the Commonwealth's biggest modeling competition.

Nola Hix was voted Miss Popular; Diann Tudela is Ms. Friendship; while the Star award went to Wilma Jean Fleming.

The MVA and Marasia gave away \$500, trophy, and special gifts for the

grand prize winner, while the first, second and third runner-ups received \$400, \$300, and \$200 cash prizes respectively. Winners of special awards received \$100 cash prize each, trophy and special gifts.

Northern Marianas Beauty Pageant Association National Director Jonas M. Barcinas said the candidates were graded according to their exotic beauty, posture and the way they sashay their gowns.

He said the winners will be featured in various magazines and TV programs in Korea, which will also give the Northern Marianas the chance to be seen in various areas in Korea.

"We will improve the event next year. We would like to extend a huge thank you to all the candidates, parents, business and government agencies and officials who helped us," Barcinas said.

The festival was seen to help pump up the CNMI economy, which has taken a severe beating from the September 11 terror attacks and the subsequent US-led war on terrorism.

Present during the contest were media representatives from Wedding 21, Wedding TV Tour, Camera Works, Jesam Channel, Semijong, Wedding Magazine, Dong Ah TV, and SI Broadcasting.

Luxe Wedding and Bae will catalogue the presentation, which will be featured in the Wedding Catalogue magazine on January 2002. Professional photographer Jae Sun Lee engaged Ms. CNMI-Universe Janet King in a magazine shoot.

The festival, which aims to revive the CNMI's tourism industry, was held in coordination with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club of Saipan, and the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Guest models also sashayed 13 casual and 13 beach wears, wedding gowns, evening dresses and shoes from Korea and DFS Galleria.

FOR GOURMET LOVERS

serena
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Benkay
ベ McKay

Kaenju
カエンジュ

Toh Lee
トウリー

Salt & Pepper
ソルト & ペッパー

**Feast on tantalizing cuisine
in our 5 gourmet restaurants
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including breakfast
\$100 cash
\$100 value of dinner certificate
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Complimentary Drink Coupon at Pau Pau Bar
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Promotion Period: December 1 until January 14

Drawing Date: January 15

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The package includes
One night stay with late check out
Teppanyaki Dinner for two at KAENJU
Complimentary cocktail for two at PAU PAU BAR
Breakfast at SERENA
Free use of longest waterslide on the island
Free usage of kid's room

\$140 (inclusive) room night

Promotion Period: December 1 until January 14

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This Year...



For more information,
please call 322-3311 ext. 2101 or 2102



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Grand Prize
One night stay at Hotel Nikko Saipan
including breakfast
\$100 cash
Teppanyaki KAENJU dinner for two
Salt & Pepper dinner for two
Serena lunch for two
Mandara Spa treatment for two

First Prize
One night stay at Hotel Nikko Saipan
including breakfast
\$100 cash
Benkay dinner for two
Toh Lee dinner for two
Serena lunch for two
Golf course ticket for two
Mandara Spa treatment for two

**Monday, December 31
9:30 p.m. @ PAU PAU BAR & TERRACE**

\$15 Cover Charge includes
A Raffle Ticket, Miller Lite Beer,
Champagne and Finger Foods.
Live Band, DJ and Fireworks

